



Prohibition of Major Appliance Disposal in Landfills

Solid Waste Management Program technical bulletin

8/2002

Introduction

Effective Jan. 1, 1991, Missouri law (section 260.250 RSMo) prohibits the disposal of major appliances in solid waste disposal areas.

Definitions

CFC – Chlorofluorocarbon (such as freon) used as refrigerant in refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners.

Major appliance – As defined in chapter 260 RSMo, includes clothes washers and dryers, water heaters, trash compactors, dishwashers, conventional ovens, ranges, stoves, woodstoves, air conditioners, refrigerators and freezers. Other appliances in addition to these may also be recycled.

PCB – Polychlorinated biphenyls, oily chemical compounds that are suspected carcinogens.

PCB small capacitor – A capacitor that weighs less than three pounds and contains PCB's.

Recommended Management Methods

If a major appliance cannot be repaired for reuse, recycling is encouraged as a disposal alternative. The Solid Waste Management Program can provide assistance in locating the major appliance collection centers throughout Missouri that will accept major appliances for recycling. These major appliance collection centers may have specific requirements for acceptance of appliances. Please contact the collection center prior to delivery. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources does not endorse the firms contained in the listing nor does it consider the list to be complete.

The usual method of recycling is to shred appliances and then to separate the metals from the nonmetallic material, which is called "fluff". Fluff may be recycled or disposed of as a special waste in a landfill approved to accept the waste. The metals are then ready for further reprocessing and remanufacturing. In general, small components such as compressors, capacitors, motors or other items that are routine repair or replacement parts may be accepted by a salvage dealer or may be disposed of in a sanitary landfill if removed from the major appliance.

CFC's

The federal *Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990* banned refrigerant venting effective July 1, 1992. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations mandate that refrigerant recovery measures must be performed during servicing and equipment disposal. Refrigerant must be

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evacuated from appliances and contained until it can be recharged back into an appliance or reclaimed. Effective July 13, 1993, persons who take the final step in the disposal process of an appliance must either recover any remaining refrigerant or verify that the refrigerant has been evacuated previously. Persons recovering refrigerants from appliances for purposes of disposal of these appliances must use recovery equipment that meets specific standards as established by EPA. For additional information contact the CFC Stratospheric Ozone Hotline at 1-800-296-1996.

PCB's

Some appliances manufactured before 1979 may have used capacitors that contain PCB's. Unless a capacitor is clearly marked by the manufacturer that it does not contain PCB's, it is recommended that the capacitor be handled as if it contains PCB's. Current regulations state that any person may dispose of intact PCB small capacitors as municipal solid waste, unless that person is a manufacturer of PCB equipment. While current state and federal waste management regulations allow intact PCB small capacitors to be disposed of in a sanitary landfill, it is recommended that large quantities be disposed of in the most environmentally responsible manner possible, such as at a permitted PCB facility. Leaking PCB capacitors must be properly containerized and sent to an approved PCB facility for disposal. Information on permitted PCB disposal facilities is available from the Hazardous Waste Program upon request at (573) 751-3176. It is recommended that all capacitors be removed by someone familiar with removal practices before appliances are shredded in order to prevent possible contamination of the fluff with PCB's.

Major Appliance Collection Center Operation

Collection centers must store appliances in a manner that will not create potential health or safety hazards, and that will not create potential adverse environmental effects. In addition to the laws regulating solid waste disposal, collection centers should be aware of other state laws and regulations that may affect their operations. These include, but are not limited to sections 226.650 through 226.720 RSMo, which empowers the State Transportation Department to regulate "junkyards" near state highways; section 577.100 RSMo, which makes the abandonment of airtight or semi-airtight containers a criminal offense; and 10 CSR 20 chapter 6 concerning permits for wastewater and stormwater releases. Stormwater release permits are required for operation of a major appliance collection center and further information is available from the Water Pollution Control Program at (573) 751-1300.

Sanitary landfills may store major appliances, provided the landfill submits a letter to DNR detailing how the landfill will comply with the requirements of this fact sheet and complies with the requirements of 10 CSR 80-3.010 which states that salvage operations shall be conducted in such a manner as to not detract from the appearance of the sanitary landfill. Salvaged materials shall be removed from the sanitary landfill daily or stored in aesthetically acceptable containers or enclosures.

For more information call or write

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Solid Waste Management Program

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(www.dnr.state.mo.us/alpd/swmp/homeswmp.htm) Program Home Page